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TELEPHONE MAIN 661.

THE WEATHER

Oregon, Washington, Idaho—Fair and warmer.

A COMMON-SENSE LEVEL.

The Morning Astorian voices a very general idea when it declares that the casting of the local option feature into the present political fight, is to say the least, inopportune, and fraught with large chances for disappointment, that will not begin to be placated by any advantages accruing from its success. On the other hand we are just as free, and frank, to confess that the invasion has been deliberately invited by those saloons that have boldly and badly broken the Sunday-closing law. This is the status of the whole thing, in a political sense.

We cannot, as a public policy, endorse the local option program, at this juncture; we will not, at this, nor at any other time, even countenance (let alone endorse), the raw infraction of a plain and desirable statute; we can but insist upon the use of the common-sense level in straightening out the confusion and disadvantage certain to arise, if those in interest cannot reach a compromise whereby the law, and the business of the community, shall be best served, and the people, generally, be satisfied.

We are forced to disparage the doctrine of paying, or praying, any man, or set of men, to obey the law of the land; the idea is repugnant always, and utterly illogical. We prefer to let affairs take their course, and if the law-breakers can stand the results, we, and all other business-men in the community, will have to stand them. It may be that local option is the only effective agency at the command of the people to compel the saloonmen to fulfil the law; if so, well and good, let it do its work. Something must operate to do this one thing; and if it is invoked here and wins out at the polls on the first Monday in June, the offending saloonman "may shake hands with himself" and blame none other for the contretemps.

We are warning both sides, with the best grace possible, and what of untoward reaction ensues, may be charged where it belongs. But, concluding, we wish to say, with the kindest emphasis, that it is strange, indeed, the saloonmen cannot obey the laws that permit them to live and do business with rational success; yet rather invoke that law which crushes that business out of existence without question, without appeal and without recourse.

CLATSOP'S ALL RIGHT!

With a public debt of \$50,000, with her warrants but ten months in arrears and a \$200,000 court house built and paid for, save a few thousands for furniture and site-improvement, Clatsop county is in very wholesome condition financially considering the fact that two years ago she was practically \$100,000 "in the hole," with no public buildings.

The policy of paying for what we get, and barring the curse of long-drawn interest is just as valuable in public as in private businesses; and the taxpayer will gladly assent to the operation of this doctrine whenever it is necessary to acquire any public utility.

It is the eternal interest charge that ties the hands of the community just as it binds the private operator. It is that element of finance that strengthens the hands of the banker and broker, and capitalist seeking investment; and the interest bills of the people today comprise the vast bulk of their public and private obligations.

There is but one county in all Oregon that lives on the "spot-cash" basis, and that is "old Marion," the richest and most beautiful in the

State. She has learned her lesson and is profiting by it. Clatsop will get round to the day and opportunity for taking over the policy of paying as she goes, and when the taxpayer realizes the absence and weight of the "interest charge," he will be grateful to the men who have wrought the relief. And by the way, it is up to every candidate before the people these days, to win their hearts and votes upon just this same honest, simple predicate.

Time brings its lessons and blessings, as well as its accumulations of senseless and useless interest!

WE'RE STILL PAUSING.

Times without number, Astoria has propounded the simple question, "Why should not the grain shipments of the Northwest be done from this port, the sea-base of the water-level-down-grade-haul from the farthest inland field of production, rather than from Portland, 100 miles in the interior and up two rivers, and rather than from Seattle or Tacoma, 167, and 187, miles respectively, from the seaboard? We are still pausing for a reply; in fact, pausing for replies of succinct, tangible, rational, unselfish and satisfactory character to this living question, has become a fixed habit down here, and runs its cheerful course along with the customs and pursuits and common indulgences of the place and the day. But, all the same, we would like to have some friend, or even an enemy, attempt to answer it logically and concisely, if only to give us a new cue for contesting it.

The blamed thing is so simple and honest and self-evident, that we are distraught for want of real bases of argument and discussion and shall be glad to have a hunch. We have not only asked, but have answered, it myriads of times in myriads of ways, but always with the same plain, cardinal terms, expressed as differently and as fancifully as our poor knowledge of English permitted; and we shall be thankful for some suggestion that will open up a new line of argument heretofore unused by us. Get in, somebody!

EDITORIAL SALAD

It is expected that Count de Castellane and Prince de Sagan will soon renew their effort to convert each other into a royal cuspidor.

So the St. Lawrence River has been dredged to a depth of 30 feet for a distance of 1000 miles, what is the matter with providing a deep channel in the Mississippi at a similar moderate cost?

In 1892 the Populist party worked up to 1,041,467 votes and a score of twenty-two in the electoral college. Then is fused with the Democratic and has seen nothing but goose eggs since that mercenary flop.

The fact that there will be no revision of the tariff except along protective lines is a terrible disappointment to the Democratic party. Its attempt to mix revision with free trade is a flat failure.

A pine-tree pest has appeared in Massachusetts, which means another loud call for a state appropriation. The gypsy moth became immortal and universal the moment the Legislature voted a big sum for its extermination.

Germany's big armored cruiser just launched the Bluecher, will cost \$6,915,000, but another has been designed, to be fitted with turbines, that calls for \$10,000,000. The modern jump in the outlay on single ships requires careful figuring on the part of the watchdogs of the treasury.

FAVORABLE REPORT.

WASHINGTON, April 25.—The house judiciary committee has ordered a favorable report of the senate bill conferring jurisdiction upon the circuit court of the United States of the ninth district for determining the rights of American citizens under the award of the Bering Sea arbitration of Paris and to render judgment thereon.

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RESIGNATION ACCEPTED.

Trouble Grew Out of "Overcoat Incident" at West Point Academy.

WASHINGTON, April 25.—Army orders announced the resignation of Second Lieut Fairfax Ayres of the Seventh Cavalry, son of Lieut Col. Charles G. Ayres of the Fourteenth Cavalry Regiment. Lieut. Ayres resignation has been accepted by the president, to take effect May 15 next. No reason for the young man's act in resigning is given in the formal orders announcing the fact, nor do the officers on duty at the war department make any explanation of it, except to say that some months ago an affirmative reply had been given by the department to an inquiry addressed to it on behalf of young Ayres asking whether he would be permitted to resign after he had received a commission. Lieut Ayres was a cadet at West Point last spring, when the "Easter overcoat incident" occurred, on which occasion several of the cadets loaned their heavy coats to girl visitors to protect them from the weather. This was contrary to orders and met with the disapproval of the commander of the cadets Col. Howse Miss Ayres, a sister of young Ayres, was among the girls visiting the Academy at the time. Her mother took up the matter and a controversy sprang up, the finale of which was the issuance of an order from the War Department forbidding Mrs. Ayres admission to the West Point military reservation. Thereupon Col. Ayres, father of Cadet Ayres, espoused the cause of his wife and in an interview was alleged to have criticised army methods employed in dealing with the trouble between Mrs. Ayres and the West Point authorities. He declined to answer whether he had made certain in that interview upon demand of the War Department and was ordered before a retiring board and retired on account of disability incident to the service July 24, last.

RECEIVERS ASKED FOR.

OWENSBORO, April 25.—The Owensboro Savings Bank & Trust Co., of Owensboro, Ky., has applied for the appointments of a receiver. The bank is capitalized at \$20,000, and has deposits of over \$1,000,000. Of this amount \$500,000 is held by depositors residing in six states and six foreign countries. The Davies County Bank & Trust Co. is suspending cash payments yesterday is capitalized at \$500,000 and has about \$600,000 in deposits.

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SUNDAY AT THE CHURCHES

First Norw. Ev. Lutheran.

Morning service, 10:45; evening service, 7:30; Sunday school meets at 9:30 a. m. The choir of the church assists at all evening services. All are cordially invited. Theo. P. Neste, pastor.

Baptist.

Dr. C. A. Woodby, superintendent of Missions for the Pacific and Northwestern States, will preach at the morning service and at the evening hour will give an address on "Home Missions." At 6:30 p. m. the

TEA

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B. Y. P. U. will have a missionary program. Sunday school at 10 a. m. Everybody invited to attend these meetings. Conrad L. Owens, pastor.

Norwegian-Danish M. E.

Services at 11 a. m. and 7:45 p. m. Sunday School at 10 a. m. The choir will sing. O T Field, pastor.

First Lutheran.

Morning service in Swedish, 10:45; theme, "The Divine Presence." Lutheran League Circle meets for devotional exercises at 6:30 p. m. Evening service in English at 7:30; theme, "There is no God, or an Unbeliever's Confession." The evening service as

well as the Luther League Circle is held at the German Lutheran Church on Grand avenue near Fourteenth street. All are cordially invited. Gustaf E. Rydquist, pastor.

Presbyterian.

Morning worship, 11 o'clock, "I Am Debtor." Sunday school, 12:15; Y. P. S. C. E., 6:30; evening worship, 7:30, subject, "The Answer." Quartet at the morning service. Miss Simington will sing a solo in the evening. All are invited. Wm. S. Gilbert, pastor.

Holy Innocents Chapel.

First Sunday after Easter. Morning and evening services, 10 a. m. and 7:30

p. m. Sunday school 11:15 a. m.

Christian Science.

Services in I. O. O. F. building, Tenth and Commercial streets, rooms 5 and 6 at 10 a. m. Subject, "Probation After Death." All are invited. Sunday school at 11:30. Reading room, same address, hours from 12 to 5 daily, except Sunday.

First Methodist.

Sermon themes for Sunday. Morning, "Living Religion." Evening, "The Courage of the Coward." Other services: Class meeting at 10:15; Sunday school at 12:15; Epworth League at 6:30. C. C. Rarick, pastor.



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